

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 17, 2011

Mr. Patrick J. O'Brien
Director
Office of Economic Adjustment
Department of Defense
400 Army Navy Drive, Suite 200
Arlington, VA 22202-4704

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

I am pleased to strongly support the six projects that the Montgomery County Department of Transportation ("McDOT") and the Maryland State Highway Administration ("SHA") submitted to the Office of Economic Adjustment for transportation improvements relating to the BRAC consolidation at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC") in Bethesda, Maryland.

As you know, BRAC-mandated growth has increased personnel at the WRNMMC by 33%; visits to the campus are expected to double to 1,000,000 per year. WRNMMC is located in a densely-settled urban area with a transportation infrastructure that was well beyond capacity even before the BRAC move was mandated in 2005. Post-BRAC traffic forecasts anticipate that gridlock could prevent our nation's wounded, active and retired military from receiving timely care. We have an obligation to ensure that military personnel are not mired in gridlock on the roads surrounding the WRNMMC campus and, as a consequence, are denied the timely care they deserve and require.

Montgomery County and the State of Maryland have designed projects to mitigate this traffic gridlock. Although funds are available to begin initial phases of construction, none of these projects can be completed without significant financial support from the federal government. Recognizing this, Congress has appropriated \$300 million for such projects at BRAC-impacted military medical facilities to be administered by the Office of Economic Adjustment.

The submitted proposals include the following:

- \$40 million for the Maryland Route 355 Crossing Project, submitted by McDOT;
- \$19 million for unfunded phases of Bethesda BRAC Improvements at MD 355 (Rockville Pike) and West Cedar Lane/Cedar Lane, submitted by SHA;
- \$18.3 million for unfunded phases of Bethesda BRAC Improvements at MD 185 (Connecticut Avenue) and Jones Bridge Road/Kensington Parkway, submitted by SHA;
- \$7.3 million for Bethesda BRAC Improvements at MD 187 (Old Georgetown Road) and West Cedar Lane/Oakmont Avenue, submitted by SHA;

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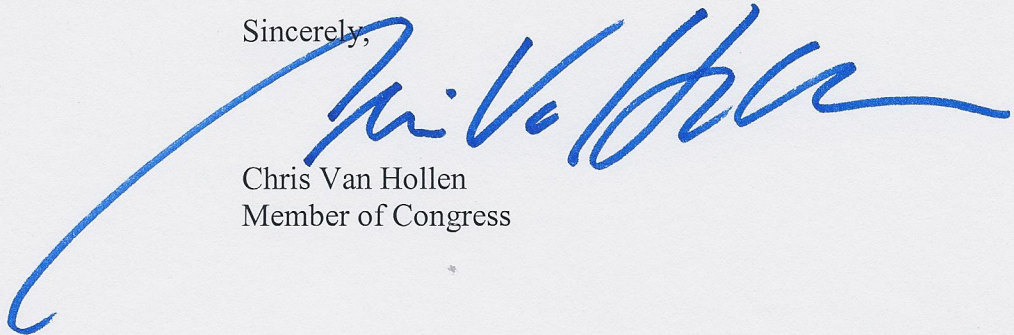
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- \$1.1 million for Bethesda Trolley Trail Connections and Passenger Drop-off Loop along MD 187 (Old Georgetown Road), submitted by SHA; and
- \$4.3 million for unfunded phases of Bethesda BRAC Improvements at MD 355 (Rockville Pike) and Jones Bridge Road/Center Drive, submitted by SHA.

Each of these essential projects is supported by WRNMMC and requires full funding to be maximally effective.

I strongly support Montgomery County and the State of Maryland's efforts to obtain this critical funding for these projects and I urge your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

CVH/sr